

## Completed Pollution Prevention Project Case Study

United States Department of Energy  
Office of Environmental Management  
Fact Sheet

### Equipment Recycling from the CMR Facility Los Alamos National Laboratory

#### Original Problem

The CMR Facility purchased \$700,000 worth of new electrical equipment, including special electrical power distribution panels and pad-mounted electrical sectionalizing switches, for facility upgrades. Before the equipment could be installed, a seismic fault was discovered beneath the facility. This discovery meant that most of the planned upgrades of electrical infrastructure would not take place after all. The equipment could not be returned since it had been built to custom specifications.

#### The Project Solution

Employees from CMR began looking for other groups within LANL that could use the equipment. Eventually the equipment was distributed to Chemistry Division, Dynamic Experimentation Division, and LANL's power distribution group. These divisions received the new equipment for just the cost of moving it to their sites from the CMR Facility.

#### Value of Improvement

LANL was able to make full use of the new electrical equipment even though the ultimate users were not those originally planned. If the equipment had just been thrown away, LANL would have lost its \$700,000 investment and approximately 1000 cubic yards of sanitary waste would have been sent to the landfill or to scrap metal dealers.

Lifecycle Waste Reduction	
Lifecycle Waste Reduction	~1000 yd <sup>3</sup>
Commencement Date	2001
Project Useful Life (Years)	One-time



DOE Monetary Benefits	
Total Project Cost	NA
Lifecycle Savings	~\$700,000
Return on Investment	NA

#### Benefits At-A-Glance

- Other groups at LANL were able to use the electrical equipment after the facility upgrade plans for CMR were altered by the discovery of a seismic fault.
- Approximately 1000 cubic yards of sanitary waste was avoided by transferring the equipment to other groups.
- LANL saved its \$700,000 investment in the equipment by transferring it to other groups instead of treating the material as sanitary waste.

## **Equipment Recycling from the CMR Facility Los Alamos National Laboratory**

<b>Summary Data</b>	
Priority Area:	Waste Minimization Projects
Project Type:	Reuse
Total Project Cost:	NA
Lifecycle Savings:	~\$700,000
Implementing Group:	CMR Facility
Benefiting Groups:	C-Division, DX-Division, JCNNM
Useful Life Years:	One time
Return on Investment:	NA
Lifecycle Waste Reduction:	~1000 cubic yards of sanitary waste
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